

Agriculture Policy Programme Caribbean Action



Guyana



Country
UpDate

APP Country Update – Guyana

The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.



Local youth provided with opportunity to promote their enterprises and expand their business networks

- Judson Bess and Reynard Ward participated in the Youth in Agriculture (YiA) Business Forum as part of the D4D in Grenada [18th – 22nd January 2016]. The Forum targeted youth who own and operate agribusinesses and/or manage and play a vital role in a family-owned agricultural enterprise. Through the YiA Forum, participants were exposed to other business youth from the rest of the Caribbean, and he is now part of a post-forum youth-driven vibrant ‘network’.

The Grenada YiA Forum also provided an opportunity to promote their businesses among their peers and agri-stakeholders in the Region and to be the start of a YiA database designed to ensure that they are targeted for subsequent opportunities for further training under the APP and other development initiatives. The young agripreneurs who participated in the YiA Business Forum have established a social network using the WhatsApp platform, through which they have maintained contact, continue to share valuable information and are pursuing options for commercial ventures. This networking platform has expanded as they have added other young agripreneurs to the group. Their open and genuine commitment to pass on the knowledge gained by providing training and mentoring to other youth at the national and regional level, the post-forum continuity achieved through the networking platform provides a good basis for continuity and sharing of the knowledge and benefits started in Grenada.

- Zoey Williams was given an opportunity to engage with regional planners to propose solutions to hindrances experienced by agripreneurs at the Component 1 (CCS) 9th Regional Planners Forum (RPF) on Agriculture, held in Trinidad and Tobago from June 7 – 10, 2016. As part of the RPF, a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs, was introduced and tested. This effort is a follow up to the APP-supported YiA Business Forum held in January 2016, and provided participants with tools for improving business operation and competitiveness. It is anticipated that building institutional capacity and fostering policy dialogue with youth farmers will assist in the development and implementation of policies and other initiatives to support young farmers in Guyana and the wider Caribbean region.

Support provided under. . .

Component 1 – CCS:
‘Support Involvement of Women and Youth in Dialogue on the Region’s Agriculture Issues’

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Component 2 – CARDI:

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Component 3: *‘Strengthen and link existing fora for multi-stakeholder dialogue to widen regional exposure and networking opportunities for small producers/ entrepreneurs’*

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Agriculture Planners get more opportunities for regional and international policy networking

- Mr. George Jervis, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture participated in the 8th Regional Planners Forum on agriculture in Grenada, [18th – 22nd January 2016]. Mr. Jervis had the opportunity to network and dialogue with planners from the rest of the Region as well as heads and senior professionals from the key regional and international agricultural development institutions and private sector entities on topics of direct significance to agricultural development in Guyana, including approaches for developing commodity-based industries, facilitation of intra-regional trade and critical areas for national and regional policy response. At that forum also, planners from the Region benefitted from the exchange of information and experiences on a comprehensive approach to integrated national and sectoral planning shared by Ms. Elizabeth Emanuel of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) where she not only explained the process of arriving at the 2013 Vision, but also provided planners with a CD containing full copies of the policy for their reference, and use, as appropriate.
- Ms. Natasha Beerjit was afforded an opportunity, along with eight other planners from the Region, to participate in the 2016 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Outlook Forum in Arlington Virginia [25th- 26th February 2016]. Participants reported that the experience and exposure to the level of research, technical information, dialogue and networking was worth it and despite the economic differences between the US and other developed countries, and the Caribbean, there is need for a much greater level of investment and technical infusion into the development of agriculture.
- Ms. Natasha Beerjit also attended the 9th Regional Planners Forum on Agriculture from 7th to 9th June 2016 in Trinidad and Tobago, which provided her with an opportunity to engage and network with peers in the Region and dialogue and exchange information of critical topics for agricultural policy response. The 9th RPF also provided the opportunity for MoA officials to be introduced to a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs.

Support provided under . . .

Component 1 – CCS:
‘Support for policy capacity building and networking through a Regional Planners Forum (RPF)’

Local Herbs & Spices producers get an opportunity to chart a future for the industry in the region

Ms. Shahzir Ali, director of Recks & Sarz Agro Ltd, participated in a technical meeting convened by the CARICOM Secretariat [9th – 10th May 2016] in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting provided a forum to consult with and sharing information with other herbs and spices entrepreneurs and a consultant Dr. André Gordon, on the development needs for the sector as part of an initiative to develop a Regional policy and strategy for the sector and a mechanism to facilitate industry collaboration, commercial activities and their interface with the public sector on matters of policy. The process taken for the development of this industry will also inform the process for and be incorporated into the new policy framework for agriculture.

- **This activity commenced in November 2015, and will conclude in August 2016.**

Support provided under . . .

Component 1 – CCS: *‘Develop a Regional policy framework for the Herbs and Spices Industry’*

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Local stakeholders provided the opportunity to discuss issues related improving domestic fresh produce marketing

Guyana was among the countries which benefitted directly from an assessment of the adequacy of market infrastructure for fresh agricultural produce. This study was grounded in five (5) countries (others included Barbados, Grenada St, Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago), sought to determine whether existing ‘physical facility or tangible facilitating arrangements’ are adequate to permit the flow of agricultural products from farm-gate to consumer. ‘Adequacy’ was measured from the supplier (farmer, retailer and/or vendor) and the buyer (individual consumers, retailers/wholesalers) perspectives, as well as any intermediary, for example packing houses. Based on the findings of the country assessments, several recommendations were offered for improving market infrastructure that will simultaneously improve the outcomes for vendors, including small producers and experiences for consumers. Local stakeholders were also involved in a validation meeting to discuss the findings and recommendations.

- **The study was concluded in October 2015 and recommendations should be reviewed in the context of the ongoing support to the national agriculture policy and plan.**

Support provided under . . .

Component 1, CCS :

‘Examine the adequacy of market infrastructure with focus on small producers’

Root and tuber farmers’ have access climate-ready planting material enhanced

Work has started on the refurbishment of facilities for multiplying planting material. The Roots and Tubers (sweet potato and cassava) germplasm facility at the NAREI, Mon-Repos station will be outfitted with a new irrigation system (micro sprinklers) and working tables. The floor of the facility will be upgraded and roof extended. The current capacity of the facility is about 200 plants. Upon completion the facility will have a capacity of 1,000 plants. A seedling nursery for hot peppers will also be refurbished. The capacity of the structure will be increased by 100% (from 1000 – 2000 plants) upon completion. This activity is being done under the CARDI-NAREI Technical Cooperation Agreement. It is anticipated that the facilities will assist in meeting the increasing demands for planting material as farmers engage in increased production targeted at the local and export markets.

Support provided under . . .

Component 2, CARDI :

‘Refurbish existing germplasm production structures & multiplication units’

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Farmers exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices

- National Agriculture, Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), has established irrigation demonstration plots for sweet potato and cassava facilitated under the CARDI - NAREI Technical Cooperation Agreement. Plots have been established at the NAREI Mon-Repos station and on a farmer's plot located at Parika Back dam. The objective is to demonstrate to sweet potato and cassava farmers the benefits of fertilizer application and irrigation technologies, especially during the dry the seasons. These two technologies are not generally practiced by farmers. In addition, NAREI has demonstrated improved techniques for weed control and pest and disease management. Establishment of crops and installation of the irrigation system was completed in March 2016.
- Half an acre (½ acre) hot pepper plots demonstrating the use of plastic mulch, irrigation and fertigation technology have been established at Looni and the NAREI demonstration farm at Mon-Repos. The demonstration is set up to show improved technologies/practices alongside traditional practices. Farmers of the Morn repo and Pirika areas are the main target group.

Support provided under . . .

Component 2, CARDI :
'Procure and demonstrate use of small scale equipment, tools and machinery for training demonstrations'

Farmers receive training in rapid multiplication and management of Sweet Potato and Cassava germplasm

NAREI will conduct a series of training sessions on the rapid multiplication of root crops (cassava and sweet potato) as well as seedling production for hot pepper in August 2016. Producers from Parika and Craig as well as technicians of the MoA will benefit from the training. Experts from NAREI will conduct training.

Support provided under . . .

Component 2, CARDI :
'Develop capacity of selected institutions and small producers/ entrepreneurs for multiplying and managing improved germplasm'

MSME's receive training in value added products for roots and tubers and hot pepper

- Small processors will benefit from national training sessions in value added products for roots and tubers. Specifically, NAREI will provide training in the processing frozen cassava logs and grated cassava. The sessions will be held during the period July 15 – 20, 2016 and will target farmers in the Pirika area. NAREI will collaborate with the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) - Culinary School), FAO and Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) to host the training sessions. The GSA and CABA will also assist NAREI in sourcing of equipment for MSME's interested in commercial processing.
- Processors from Morn Repo and Pirika will also benefit from training session in the production of value added products from hot pepper (marsh, sauces and dried pepper). NAREI will collaborate with the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) to implement the training during August, 2016.

Support provided under . . .

Component 2, CARDI :
'Regional and National Level Training Workshops in value-added processes and product development'

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SME's receive training in packaging labelling and product development

Priscilla Torres - Wowetta Women's Agro-Processors Association, Christina James - Blue Flame Women's Group and Onika Beckles - Seasoned Delight were given the opportunity to attend a Regional training Workshop on Product Development, Marketing, Food Safety and GMP's for SME's [21st – 24th March 2016, Trinidad and Tobago]. The participants agreed that they required and benefited from the exposure and training in improved packaging and labelling design, use of appropriate semi-industrial equipment and infrastructure to improve good manufacturing practices in her enterprises. Hence continued and targeted interventions by development partners in this area will be of great benefit to them in enhancing their operation.

Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Improve design of packaging and labelling for select agri-food processing MSMEs (producer groups)'

Producer groups and networks capacity for governance supported

- Grace Mary Albert- Wowetta Women's Agro-Processors Association and Debra Gopaul - West Berbice Sheep and Goat Farmers' Association received expert training at a Regional training Workshop in Producer Group Governance hosted jointly by C2 and C3 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, [April 25-27, 2016].
- Mr. James Schadde (Rising Sun Product Enterprise) and Kumeshwar Ronie (Massy Stores Guyana) participated in the Strengthening Producer-Buyer Relationships: Networking Platform Experiences and Strategy Meeting held in St. Lucia during the period 27-28 June, 2016. It was designed to facilitate joint planning and sharing of information so as to improve the organizational capacity of producer, women and youth through their insertion into value chains. The aim of the dialogue platform is the removal of obstacles to the production, marketing and distribution of commodities and to build capacity and institutional frameworks and systems for value chain development. The meeting in St. Lucia benefited from the already established buyer/producer relationship which exists between Massy Stores Saint Lucia and several local producers and was the focus of discussions. Producer-buyer relationship in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana was also highlighted.

Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Support National Producer-Buyer Networking and Group Governance Building activities'

Financial investment profiles for selected SME's conducted

Targeted local enterprises will be assessed in terms of credit-readiness and qualifying enterprises will undergo an investment profiling. The local NVCF has already received initial training/orientation by FAST expert in enterprise credit-readiness assessment and investment profiling tools at the C2-C3 April 25-27, 2016 workshop in Saint. Vincent and the Grenadines. The application of tools by the NVCF and final assessments of selected local qualifying producer/ enterprises will be completed by end of August 2016, in preparation for engagement with Financial Institutions (FIs) during the C3 Regional Agri-Value Chain Finance Forum to be held in Jamaica in September 2016. This is being undertaken within framework of C3 FAST-IICA and CaFAN-IICA-CARDI LoAs.

Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Prepare Financial /Investment profiles for selected commodity based Industries to strengthen information baselines and stakeholders engagement on value chain financing in CARIFORUM'

July 2016 ~ 5 ~ APP/PMU



The Intra-ACP APP is funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF)



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Directory of major enterprises in cassava and small ruminants value chain published

Twenty one (21) organizations within the cassava value chain and fourteen (14) organizations within the small ruminants value chain were featured in an APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers. The Directory includes the contact information for key producer groups, supermarkets, restaurants, traders, exporters, agro-processors, and input suppliers involved in these commodity-specific chains. Forty (40) copies have been made available for distribution to stakeholders in Guyana and the Directory will also be made available online in APP partner and Ministry of Agriculture websites.

Support provided under . . .
Component 3, IICA: 'APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers'

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Upgrade the Regional Agribusiness Platform (Carib-Agri Website www.agricarib.org) and support capacity of producers to use same for business and trade-related information	An upgraded website has been delivered to the CARICOM Secretariat. Website content uploads are being done, and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9 th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the content for the website.
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Upgrade/expand the existing web-based Institutional Directory and Activity Integration Map developed under a previous IICA-CTA project	The consultancy is advanced and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9 th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago. The Platform targets key agricultural development agencies which are part of the umbrella Agriculture Food and Nutrition Cluster (AFNC) and that provide development support to the sector. The information already gathered/provided by these agencies on their activities and initiatives will be coded and included in the database to enhance stakeholder knowledge on what's happening and foster greater institutional coordination. Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute information on projects to enhance the database.

July 2016 ~ 6 ~ APP/PMU



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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Support AFNC (one F2F), virtual coordination meetings, logistics, communications</p>	<p>CARDI as Chair of the AFNC has been leading the process to manage monthly virtual meetings addressing a number of areas that are supported directly under the APP as well as complementary actions by other institutions. Since the start of 2014, a smaller core of agencies, comprising CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, FAO, CDB, UWI, OECS Secretariat, CRFM, CRFM, FAO, CARPHA, CaFAN and CABA have been holding monthly coordination meetings, of which four have been face-2-face. With support from the APP, in its short life the AFNC has managed to establish itself as a credible mechanism to foster collaboration on agency work activities to minimize overlaps and accelerate consensus on solutions to tackle common issues. Given that these key institutions provide direct support to agriculture in the countries, these meetings facilitate open dialogue and information sharing which could impact on delivery of support in country or could be based on sharing of successful experiences in country that could be replicated. Under the AFNC, teams have been created to champion the development process of priority commodities. These priority commodities and the lead agency are (a) Small Ruminants (CARDI), (b) Roots & Tubers (FAO), (c) Herbs & Spices (CABA)</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input through the CARICOM Secretariat and their local IICA and/or CARDI office, or directly through any of the key AFNC members.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Strengthen Coordination meetings, logistics, communications of the 4Thematic Groups (TGs)</p>	<p>The 4 TGs meet virtually and F2F on matters relating to their portfolio. As part of their functions, these TGs would need to liaise at the country level to determine the status of activities/initiatives being undertaken by Ministries of Agriculture, and other national, regional and international agencies, relating their specific portfolio. Countries have an important role in this information gathering process. The TGs and their lead agencies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (CCS) 2 Business Development (IICA) 3 Climate Change & Natural Resource Management (FAO) 4 Human Resource, Research & Development (CARDI) <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input directly to the lead agencies identified.</p>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - close to completion]</p> <p>Develop a Regional Policy framework for the Cassava-Based Industry</p>	<p>Initially, the ToR identified five (5) countries - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, to be 'case studied'. While these are generally representative of the difference in the agricultural sector in CARICOM, there is recognition by the Consultant that this would not provide a sufficient basis for making policy for the entire Region. The new proposal would allow for the capture of salient aspects of the industry development in a wider regional sample, by grouping the countries in Haiti, Mainland countries (Belize, Guyana, Suriname) and other CARICOM countries (including the OECS and Barbados). Hence the role of IICA and CARDI offices in facilitating the Consultant with the information and experiences gathering process will be an important factor in ensuring success of this activity.</p> <p><i>The recommendations and approach to commodity-based industry development should be reviewed in the context of the recently initiated support to development of a national agriculture policy and plan.</i></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Develop a Regional Policy Framework and a Business Plan for a Coordinating Mechanism for Herbs & Spices Industry</p>	<p>The countries to be 'sampled' as the basis for generating the body of information for analysis and recommendations will be specified on the submission of the Consultant's Inception report. Given the regional thrust to develop links to the hotel and hospitality industry and the prominence of this industry in several countries of the region, while not all countries will be 'sampled' in the effort to develop of a regional industry development plan and coordinating mechanism, the results of this activity will have direct benefits for further enhancement of existing agri-tourism linkages throughout countries of the region.</p> <p><i>The initial findings should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</i></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Assess business facilitation mechanisms with a focus on trade limiting policy measures and transportation services systems</p>	<p>Given the longstanding priority placed on 'alleviating' these trade and logistical constraints, it is expected that the results of consultations will have direct application to countries' efforts at systematically strengthening business and trade facilitation mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agricultural products.</p> <p><i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be consulted during the process of country-visits and will have an opportunity to input into the recommendations.</i></p>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Build capacity of policy planners to integrate Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC) Adaptation into national agricultural development policies & programs</p>	<p>While only a limited number of countries will receive direct support in this area, in the form of development of Drought Hazard Annex to existing National Disaster Risk Management Plans, the process, experiences and information generated from the support will be shared and transferred to other countries in the Region. This can be done through regional training activities, including the Agri-Planners Forum, as well as incorporated into the planned national level support for developing policy frameworks and plans at the national (country) and industry levels (cassava, herbs & spices).</p> <p><i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be afforded an opportunity to review the findings and recommendations, including the Drought Hazard Annexes to Disaster Risk Management Plans, being developed for Saint Lucia and Grenada.</i></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Support Policy Networking and Knowledge Transfer through a Regional Agricultural Planners Forum</p>	<p>More structured opportunities will be provided for planners in Ministries of Agriculture to network and dialogue on a continuous basis as the main tool to strengthen their capacity to undertake routine planning functions, foster consensus for decision making on critical issues on the regional agenda and as a vehicle for transferring knowledge on specific policy-related topics through virtual and F2F training activities</p> <p>Activities continue in 2016.</p>
<p>[C2 – CARDI; close to completion] Study/validation meetings on harmonization of trade standards for movement of select crop & animal livestock germplasm in the region</p>	<p>Through two separate, but complementary studies under C2, both completed in July 2015, CARDI is contributing to efforts at modernizing existing rules and regulations concerning trade in plant and animal material for easier movement while, at the same time, maintaining the lowest level of risk with respect to the transfer of pests and diseases within CARIFORUM. A F2F technical review meeting on plant germplasm trade protocols (to be convened on 7 December 2015) will explore the pest status and the risk of transmission for six priority crops, and a range of suitable options were selected and presented through six crop-specific “Protocols for the Transport of Disease-Free Planting Material in CARIFORUM”. The outcomes of this meeting and action on an agreed way forward will have far reaching implications for countries which have expressed an interest in obtaining improved germplasm for roots and tubers from both countries within and outside the region. A similar technical review will be undertaken for animal germplasm and given the current concerns with the spread of AI disease in poultry, the findings and recommendations of the protocols for moving animal germplasm across the region become even more relevant.</p> <p>The recommendations and protocols should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</p>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C3 – IICA; close to completion]</p> <p>Experience capitalization on successful CARIFORUM-based financing schemes involving small producers/ entrepreneurs in value chains'</p>	<p>CARIFORUM countries will benefit from specific case studies and short videos of the successful value chain financing mechanisms. These experiences will be documented and used for knowledge transfer and promotion to other countries in the region. Among these are the financing mechanisms and experiences in the white potato and onion industry in Jamaica and the production input loan and marketing scheme spearheaded by MASSY STORES in Saint Lucia. The two consultancies are intended to contribute to the enhancing of understanding of innovative agri-value chain financing schemes for MSMEs, the pivotal role of supportive government policy and engagement and successful collaboration with financial institutions, in order to catalyse changes in practice, help others not to repeat errors and facilitate the design of new interventions that are evidence-based.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; planning in progress]</p> <p>'Regional Agri-Value Chain Financing Forum to strengthen stakeholders engagement on Value Chain financing in CARIFORUM countries'</p>	<p>A number of local stakeholders, including producer enterprises and one Development Finance Institutions, will get the opportunity to engage with their peers and colleagues from the region as well as international experts, when Jamaica hosts the Regional Agri Value Chain Financing Forum in September 2016. The forum, hosted in collaboration with FAST, and the IICA Flagship Project on Competitiveness and the CTA, will include representatives from national and regional financial institutions, representatives of commodity producer, women and youth organizations and technical professionals from CARIFORUM countries.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; plans ongoing for technical meeting]</p> <p>Working Capital Fund study for selected commodity based Industries</p>	<p>A two-day regional workshop, involving representatives of selected producer groups and enterprises involved in Roots and Tuber production, transformation and marketing initiatives (spearheaded by APP Beneficiary organizations along with selected NVCFs, BDOs and IICA National Specialists who are supporting producer groups and value-adding enterprises) is earmarked for Barbados in August. This workshop is linked closely with the work on credit worthiness assessments being undertaken under the APP-FAST LoA. Enterprises being cleared as credit worthy' is an essential step in being deemed eligible for the financing.</p>